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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,  
THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER  
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

EU to inject Euro 259 million into the `TRNC' - Milliyet  
`Made in TRNC' products to EU markets - Sabah  
EU takes a concrete step for `TRNC' - Aksam  
Raid on Turkish mafia in New York - Hurriyet  
Israel concerned about rise in domestic violence - Aksam  
El-Al to restart flights to Turkey - Milliyet

OPINION MAKERS

EU's historic `opening' to the `TRNC' - Radikal  
Toward Emergency rule in Iraq - Zaman  
FBI crackdown on Turkish gang in New York - Cumhuriyet  
PM Erdogan meets Turkish minority in Sofia - Radikal  
Radical Jews threaten to kill Sharon - Cumhuriyet  
Israel complains to el-Baradei about Iran - Zaman  
Americans take 1.7 tons of uranium to US - Cumhuriyet  
US millionaires race for presidency - Referans

BRIEFING

EU assists `TRNC': The EU Commission on Wednesday passed a four-part assistance package for the `TRNC' in an effort to ease the isolation of northern Cyprus. The package clears the path for the export of goods from `TRNC' ports to European countries, and authorizes the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce to issue export certificates for agricultural products. The package also includes financial aid in the amount of 259 million Euro for the improvement of infrastructure, and lays out procedures for passage across the Green Line that separates the Greek Cypriot south from the Turkish Cypriot north. `TRNC PM' Mehmet Ali Talat welcomed the moves, saying that the package is `similar to having a Customs Union agreement with the EU.' Turkish PM Erdogan said the EU had undertaken measures that were long expected by Turkey.

Iraq: MFA Spokesman Namik Tan warned against attempts to change the demographic structure of Kirkuk and said that Kurds, Turkmen and Arabs should live there together in peace and security. Tan stressed that various Iraqi groups, Iraq's neighbors, and the international community all have sensitivities with regard to the future of Kirkuk, a city of critical significance for regional stability and peace. Tan also noted that Ankara and the Iraqi Administration have been working to set a date for a visit by Iraqi PM Allawi to Turkey. Diplomatic sources said preparation for training of Iraqi army units by Turkey are continuing in line with the resolution adopted at the June NATO summit in Istanbul.

Turkey/Iran: The MFA Spokesman also noted that the Turkey-Iran joint security committee will be convened next week in Ankara to discuss security issues and measures taken by Iran against PKK/Kongra-Gel activities in the region. PM Erdogan suspended a scheduled visit to Tehran last year due to the ineffectiveness of Iran in fighting the PKK. "Sabah" reports that Erdogan will visit Iran July 28-29. Meanwhile, the Iranian Interior Minister announced that 2 Iranian soldiers and 10 PKK militants had been killed in clashes in the Iranian province of West Azerbaijan. The clashes reportedly took place 9 days ago. Iranian officials also announced that they had arrested 22 persons for `anti-Turkish activities' and handed over all of the suspects to Turkey.

FBI launches `Operation Ankara': Police officers in New York raided a string of Turkish-owned gas stations and grocery stores that are alleged to have employed illegal workers been involved in money laundering. 200 federal, state, and local security personnel searched dozens of shops and gas stations run by Turks in New York. Seven Turks were arrested and 57 were detained in the crackdown. Police claim that money laundering activities carried out by the

suspects amounted to more than 26 million dollars.

Former DEP lawmakers to establish new party: Former DEP lawmaker Leyla Zana and other recently released DEP deputies say they are working to establish a new party that would contribute to the 'restructuring' of Turkey. The Ex-MPs said the party to be founded this fall would work to ensure 'domestic peace.' Leyla Zana, Hatip Dicle, Orhan Dogan and Selim Sadak have been banned from politics for their alleged ties with the outlawed PKK. The political ban could be removed, however, if Zana and her colleagues are acquitted by the Court of Cassation (Yargitay). The first hearing in the appeals process will take place today.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION:

- a) US Elections
- b) Iraq-Israel-BMENAI

#### "Toward the US Elections"

Soli Ozel observed in the mass appeal Sabah (7/8): "With the announcement of Vice Presidential candidate John Edwards, the US has officially entered the election season. The presidential elections will be the sole topic in US politics for the next four months. Experts agree that foreign policy will be the leitmotif during the elections. ... Michael Moore's new movie is definitely an agenda item in the election process. With the help of 'Fahrenheit 9/11,' the American public finally started to learn some facts after being fed by the US media with one-sided information in the post-9/11 atmosphere. ... Jackie Stevens, a US political scientist, notes the lack of effective opposition from the Democrats, and argues that the election rivals this time are not Bush and Kerry, but rather Bush and 'Fahrenheit 9/11.' ... Public opinion polls indicate that around 10 percent of voters are undecided, and they will play the determinative role in the outcome of the election. It remains to be seen whether Edwards give the Kerry campaign the boost it needs."

#### "Anti-Semitic lies, anti-Kurdish feelings and the GME"

Cengiz Candar wrote in the sensational DB Tercuman (7/8): "From the very beginning, I believed that Turkey's strategic relationship with Israel, particularly the military aspect, was a mistake. The strategic military relationship with Israel puts Turkey in a position of supporting Israeli policy for the Middle East. Such an image is incompatible with Turkey's historic identity and its strength. ... This approach, however, should not be interpreted as anti-Semitism. The Seymour Hersh story in 'The New Yorker,' for instance, contains categorical lies about Israeli intentions, including the claim that Israel aims to divide both Iraq and Turkey. ... Anti-Semitism has accelerated recently, as we started reading claims that the GME was in fact a 'Greater Israeli Project,' and that the Kurds in Iraq would be used against Turkey. ... This complete nonsense does nothing but create enmity between Turkey and the Kurds deepen anti-Kurdish feelings. Therefore, even routine and natural contact with Iraqi Kurdish leaders is presented in a suspicious context. ... Fortunately, common sense still prevails, at least according to the results of a recent opinion poll in Turkey. People were asked whether they think there is a need for a democratic reform process in the Islamic world. Just 16.5 percent responded 'no,' while 72.1 percent said 'yes.' When asked whether Turkey should take an active role in the GME project, 19.8 percent said 'no,' and 59.2 said 'yes.' ... Turkey deserves credit for not paying attention to conspiracy theories, racism, and moronic lies, and the public deserves credit for holding such sensible opinions."

DEUTSCH